

# Art and Obscenity

By

ALBERT ARTHUR ALLEN

I HAVE held my art as sacred as the building of a temple; year by year it has grown; I have struggled and worked and built for sixteen years, and then, like a thunder-bolt from a clear sky, comes destruction! ~~The whole huge pyramid sways and totters, only~~ the deeply laid foundation of training and labor has saved the pinnacles of achievements. Life is given to us; we are taught the laying of the foundation, and then it is our duty to build. Some build methodically, and some, recklessly. The artist builds like the dreamer, a castle, he attains height by hazardous endeavors, and it is all worth the risk if there are followers who profit by the gain.

This is symbolical of my life's study and my recent persecution; I am still in pursuit of my ambitions and hope to glory, in triumph, for those who follow; my cry is Freedom in Art! I have suffered the assaults of envy, and the ridicule of mediocrity—it is ignorance and cowardice that extinguish the light of genius and dig the grave of art, as of nations. In memorial of the old masters, and in sympathy with the young artists of today, I am editing a monthly publication, "FREEDOM in ART," also a de luxe photographic series, "THE BOUDOIR."

I have selected the boudoir as a strong note in modernism and realism, it is woman's domain, it is forbidden; it is intimate; and thus, it bespeaks a chaste beauty.

Beautiful women, in themselves, are only a glorious achievement, while in the girl of simplicity there is a true echo of art. Posing and beauty in themselves are not necessarily art. It is the instinctive emotions of girlhood unhampered, that give us the true feminine temperament and charm alike. We love the truth, as we know it; the joys and the sorrows. These emotions must be vested in the beauty that lend to art. This applies to figure work. The nude figure is always an achievement to the photographer, as well as to the painter. In painting, the nude is either a technical study, and not a picture at all, or it is an allegory, or an illustration of some legend. The painter or photographer,



always goes back in history for his theme, in a nude composition. A fact of solemnity that characterizes the picture as classic.

There are but a few modern painters that dare to push aside this old tradition and draw their theme from the modern world, of which, we know and understand. I might mention two American painters who have modernized their nudes in typical settings of today. In 1921, William McGregor Paxton, carried the highest honors, by popular vote at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. A beautiful painting of a nude seated at her boudoir table. Last year the Philadelphia prize was awarded Sidney E. Dickinson for his portrait of a nude woman standing in a library. There are other national and international painters who have dared to handle the subject of the nude in intimate settings of modern architecture and finery that we know. The justice in this may be strengthened by a quotation from a great European art critic, "We love what we know, and that only."

This may be why the layman passes by the work of the old masters, as the models or types, they do not know, also the settings are in a period they do not know. It seems that art is one of the few things in which the world has not progressed. The Greeks first brought art to a high degree of excellence, and when Greece declined, we seem to have been traveling in circles. It is a case of re-appreciation and review. The noble Greek and Roman creations were commonplace to the genius of those days, there was a profound understanding of their human anatomy, as it was seen and known to them. To the layman of today it is but history, it lacks human interest.

If we are to have a great art of tomorrow, it must be as grand and noble as the creations of the Greek and Roman, and its theme must be of the day in which we live, of the things we know and love. This is the source of my inspiration; I have chosen "The Boudoir" as my theme and title. The lady's Boudoir and Bath of today is as inherent in its beauty as the ancient Roman Garden or Grecian Bath.


For this series, I am selecting models of the most charming and voluptuous types, which will rival the classics of Venus and Psyche. My settings will be typically modern in every detail, from the cedar hope chest, the walnut bed, and the sunken tile bath. I am throwing myself heart and soul into this new work, with a hope of a powerful stimulus to modern art. This photographic series, "The Boudoir," is dedicated to my serious followers, and stands as a challenge to censorship. Perhaps it is the persecution, perhaps it may be the primitive tendencies that reflect a peculiarity of the individual; or the individual may feel in his bosom a spark of the spirit which led Homer, Dante

and Michael Angelo to immortality. We have always been told that most great artists do their work when in association with adversities. And it is my present adversities that have inspired me to further my creations in the face of what might have been my destruction. I am a sincere believer of the nude and feel that I am predestined to teach the truth. I have fifty thousand followers, who are, to my belief, sincere devotees of the nude. And it is with this confidence in my followers that I am willing to bare my most vital plans for my new Pictorial Series, "The Boudoir." This will be the acid test for ART and "OBSCENITY." If they have tried to stamp my past work—"OBSCENE; LEWD; LASCIVIOUS; INDECENT; FILTHY"—I await the eruption, upheaval and condemnation of the so-called purity leagues and societies for the suppression of vice—on the release of my new Pictorial Series, "The Boudoir." And all that I ask in return is that my loyal followers will express their frank and candid opinion, or criticism, in regard to this new series, as well as my past work relative to ART and OBSCENITY.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Albert Arthur Allen". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.



## "The Boudoir"

HE appellation, "MASTER of the NUDE," has been SEVENTY MILLION times associated with the name Albert Arthur Allen, since the beginning of his career. Doubtless this association will continue in art through the years to come.

Albert Arthur Allen caught the vision of an immense possibility of the camera and made it the medium for his expression. He is a pioneer, explorer, adventurer—in this new field. His ideals and conceptions belong a half a century in advance of time. In Albert Arthur Allen's new creation, "THE BOUDOIR," he has staked his mighty name—and he will prove to all the world—that truth is art and the camera is the highest vehicle of expression. "THE BOUDOIR" will be a master collection to inspire the poet, artist, and lover of the beautiful.

"THE BOUDOIR" is de luxe in every detail, it will embrace the poetic beauty of Albert Arthur Allen's famous "ALO STUDIES" and the anatomical value of his "FEMALE FIGURE" and more—a revelation of the nude. This master collection, "THE BOUDOIR," comprises ELEVEN (full size 11 x 14 inch) genuine photographic studies, printed by hand from the original negatives, each print signed by Albert Arthur Allen—contained in folio.

Price, complete, \$20.00

Terms: Five dollars down; monthly payments of three dollars with five days privilege of examination—No C. O. D. orders accepted.

Privileges:

Members of the ALLEN INSTITUTE OF FINE AND APPLIED ART are entitled to a discount of 10%.


### ALLEN ART STUDIOS

4117-4129 BROADWAY

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, U. S. A.



## "The Freedom in Art"

 HIS publication will be privately printed for forensic uses by the Allen Institute of Fine and Applied Art. It will not be publicly distributed, sold or subscribed. It is to be an exclusive privilege for active members of the Institute, incorporating the affiliated arts as follows:

Fine Art	Photographic Art
Applied Art	Physical Culture
Commercial Art	Theatre
Advertising Art	Vaudeville
Graphic Art	Dance
Motion Picture Art	The Amateur Stage

The principle and purpose is to promote a greater understanding of the arts, with equal liberty to the artist and follower; a just constitution for "The Art of the People."

If only as one who appreciates art, you have the right to enjoy the privileges of the professional. It is the shoulder of the people as well as the artist that will lift our noble arts of today above the element of suppression.

This publication is not a merely formal magazine of the review of art; it is a powerful medium personally edited by Albert Arthur Allen, and contributed to by the most eminent authors and artists of today.

"The Cry," in the "Freedom in Art" inspires the spirit—forward march—onward for the cause!

*Are You a Member of the Allen Institute of Fine and Applied Art  
As well as a subscriber to the Freedom in Art?*

Published Monthly

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:** Dues, \$1.00 a year. Privileges: free literature, bulletins and catalogues. Special 10 per cent discount on pictures, books and art matter.

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:** Dues, \$5.00 a year. Privileges: subscription to the Freedom in Art; other privileges the same as those of the Associate Members.

**SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP:** Dues, \$50.00 a year. Privileges: all of the foregoing, and in addition the loan of photographic studies (quarter, half and full life size).

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP:** One payment of \$200.00. Privileges: same as Sustaining Membership.

**PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP:** \$500. Same privileges. (Can be willed.)

These last two memberships are chiefly for those who generously wish to lend support to the Institution.

**ALLEN INSTITUTE OF FINE AND APPLIED ART**  
4117 4129 BROADWAY OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, U. S. A.







# Persecution

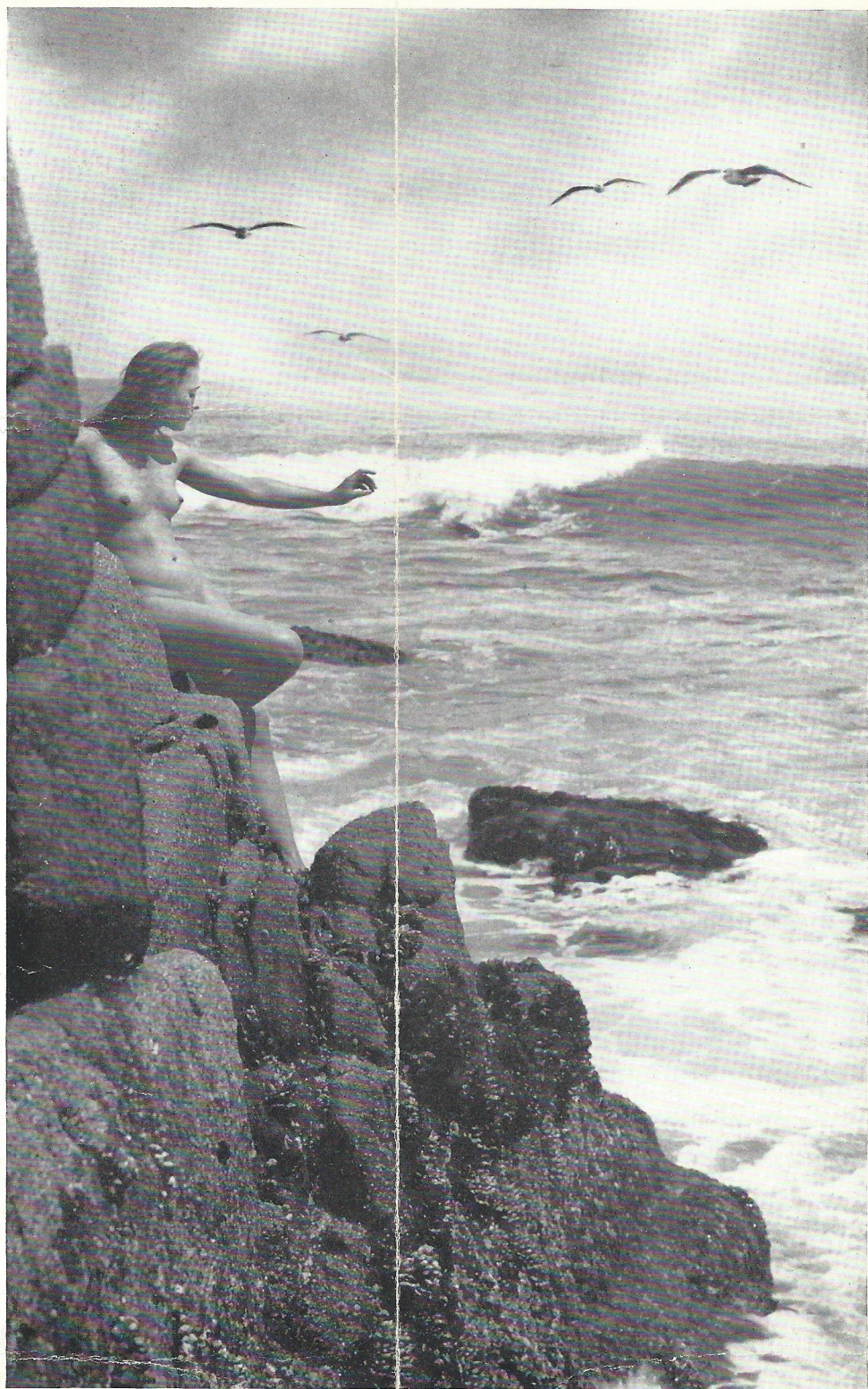
I, ALBERT ARTHUR ALLEN, have devoted my life to the study of fine arts. I have exhibited in many galleries in the United States. I have conducted classes in drawing, painting and anatomy. Through my devoted study of the human figure, I have become nationally and internationally known. My creations have had a strong influence in promoting the nude in modern art. I have experienced success and persecution alike—it has been a single-handed fight against prudery, and for the freedom in art. I have just defeated the Government in two bitter trials. They have tried to stamp my work of the nude—"OBSCENE; LEWD; LASCIVIOUS; INDECENT; FILTHY." This charge is preposterous and outrageous; a ridicule in itself to our great national art.

It is believed that this charge was formulated through so-called purity leagues and societies for the suppression of vice. "Suppressions" always call for prosecutions, which have pursued many estimable and even noble works of literature, science, and art, based on the theory that "obscenity" resides in the OBJECT and not in the PERSON who experiences the licentious feeling. Therefore, the person should be suppressed, if suppression is called for.

The question of "obscenity" and censorship has been a national problem for the past twenty-five years. Through the earnest work of certain publishers, authors and artists a greater freedom has been realized. I feel that at this present day there is a great need for an exclusive monthly publication devoted to a national freedom in art. With my own persecution still burning in my soul, I have determined to edit such a publication. It will be an original and powerful medium backed by the most courageous artists and authors of today.









---

# In Picture Form

## Alo Studies

---

From the Original Negatives

---

By ALBERT ARTHUR ALLEN

---

### Photographic Department Reorganized

WE take pleasure in announcing the reopening of our new photographic section which has been closed for business for the past several months for the purpose of experimental and scientific work, under the personal direction of Albert Arthur Allen, with the assistance of one of the foremost photographic experts.

Time and money have been extravagantly spent for the one purpose PERFECTION, and at last we are able to offer a product of unusual merit, linking together the mechanical achievement of photography with the finer senses of art.

### Life-like Flesh Tones

ONE of the most pronounced achievements of our many months of scientific work is our new power to render the delicate scale of flesh tones as they are seen through the artist's eye. All chalky effects or mechanical harshness have been eliminated. Alo Studies now stand on a plane by themselves closely approaching the fine arts.

---

---

## A New Series for the Student

WE have experienced a very heavy demand for our Alo Studies in a moderate-sized picture, printed sharp and clear, in black and white with corrected color values. In perfecting these studies we determined on a standard size, 5x8 inches, printed on a double weight, black and white, high grade photographic stock, rendering all possible definition, detail and contour without in any way sacrificing their pictorial beauty.

## Our Introductory Offer

WE have a long waiting list for these new pictures, though there are many thousand other admirers of our two volumes of Alo Studies who will welcome this opportunity of securing their favorite studies in the original photographs. To make this a real event and worth the while, we have set aside a certain fund for advertising purposes which is to be expended during a certain limited period, and we feel that the most satisfactory medium of introducing our new photographic section would be to give each and every paid in customer his pro rata of this fund in a special introductory offer. Our offer is as follows:

**YOUR CHOICE** of twenty subjects selected from both volume one and two of Alo Studies, printed 5x8 inches, full size, on double weight photographic stock, with one premium picture extra, size 8x10 inches, hand colored in pure oil colors. We take the privilege of selecting this premium picture which is reproduced on the cover of this folder, as it lends itself very magnificently to color.

YOUR remittance of five dollars will bring you this special offer if ordered before the expiration date, which you will find stamped on the enclosed order blank.

This collection of pictures as shown in our catalog will cost at all other times \$11.50. Exhibit them to your friends and we have gained our point.

---

**Allen Art Studios** 4123-4129 Broadway, Oakland, Cal., U. S. A.

---



## ORDER BLANK

ALLEN ART STUDIOS

4123-29 Broadway, Oakland, Calif.

Please send me by express.....sets of the first edition of "FEMALE FIGURE," packed in art paper folio.

I am enclosing..... for \$.....  
(Check, Money Order, etc.)

Name.....

Address.....

City and State.....

## GUARANTEE

For your protection please detach and retain this guarantee, which should be returned to our office in case there is a refund of money requested.

The "Female Figure" by Albert Arthur Allen is a guaranteed genuine photographic process from the original negative to the finished print, highest grade material used throughout.

We emphasize in this guarantee that each study is printed direct from the original negative. All negatives used are the original creations by Albert Arthur Allen. All effects of lights and settings are genuine — no faking or reproducing in any way whatsoever is employed. Models used are not the ordinary academy or art school model, but are the highest and most excellent types of the human female obtainable. The exclusive discovery of Albert Arthur Allen.



## VOLUME II.

thirty-three studies in this new collection. All new types of models are shown. Size of each picture is now 5 x 8 inches, printed in monotone including an elaborately colored frontispiece.

### ORDER NOW!

If you have not already ordered your Volume Two, fill in this order blank and mail at once, and you will be granted an extension of time on the enclosed special offer.

Use this order blank in ordering Volume Two, otherwise we are unable to grant any further extension of time.

FOR PRICES SEE OTHER SIDE

## ORDER BLANK

ALLEN ART STUDIOS

4123-4129 Broadway, Oakland, Calif.

Please send me by express ..... copies of Volume Two of "Alo Studies" bound in.....

State Binding

Kindly grant me an extension of time on your special picture offer that I may make a selection from this volume.

I am enclosing.....for \$.....  
(Check, Money Order)

NAME.....

STREET AND NUMBER.....

CITY AND STATE.....

Please include 25c extra for express charges in U. S. A.; 50c express charges for Canada and foreign countries.

V2:PL



PRICE LIST OF "ALO STUDIES" IN BOOK FORM

LEATHER BOUND stamped in gold	-	-	\$4.00
CLOTH BOUND stamped in gold	-	-	2.00
PAPER BOUND stamped in gold	-	-	1.00

Please include 25c extra for express charges in U. S. A.; 50c express charges for Canada and foreign countries.

VOLUME II.  
Thirty-three studies in this new collection  
of new types of models are shown. Size  
of each picture is now 5 x 8 inches, printed  
in monochrome including an elaborately col-  
ored frontispiece.

ORDER NOW!

If you have not already ordered your  
Volume Two, fill in this order blank and  
mail at once, and you will be granted an  
extension of time on the enclosed special  
offer.

Use this order blank in ordering Volume  
Two, otherwise we are unable to grant any  
further extension of time.

FOR PRICES SEE OTHER SIDE

We absolutely and positively guarantee the quality and value of all work from our STUDIOS. Money will be refunded if buyer should not be satisfied.